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THE FUTURE

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"At the very beginning, I couldn't say to anybody, 'okay, here's this spin-off character that I really like, maybe we can develop this into something new.' I had to depend on using previously established Marvel characters, shot ahead one hundred years. Now I don't have to do that anymore. There are so many characters proliferating in **DOOM** and **SPIDER-MAN** now, I can do a story

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Creation of these titles is usually assisted by "*large* amounts of caffeine and corn chips," Cavalieri said, laughing. "For the X-Men book, Tom DeFalco, Mark Gruenwald, and I met to discuss the setting, and to talk about the characters—we left the office for an entire morning and threw stuff back and forth.

"You want the same kind of energy, you want the same kind of action, the same kind of fun visual excitement you get in a regular book, but again, you don't want to be hidebound by continuity," Cavalieri added. "You want it to be *different*."

As for maintaining the tremendous level of enthusiasm in his group of writers and artists, "I can't say that I've had a real problem," Cavalieri went on, citing examples. "John Moore is a really bright, imaginative guy; Peter [David], is having as much fun as he did with the first issue; everybody seems to be having a real blast. They're not hidebound by current continuity, they don't have to check with somebody else. They ask each other questions or they ask me questions.

"I'll just say, 'try to have fun.' We can do whatever we want. We don't have to worry about what will happen if a character dies, if we blow up a city, or something like that. It doesn't have the same ramifications on the Marvel Universe as it would if we did it in **CAPTAIN AMERICA** or **DAREDEVIL**. The road ahead is wide open.

"What I try to do is make sure everybody gets all the scripts and artwork when I complete a book, so that all the other creative people on the series can expand on what they're doing. They can use it a little bit and they're not contradicting anything."

"You'll see this really feral, ferocious, strange looking beast..."

EXPANDING THE FUTURE

Behind the conception of the quarterly book, **2099 UNLIMITED**, was the need to create an outlet for all those incidental players that have potential to become more. But the book will also include several revolving features starring already established characters in the **2099** Universe.

The stories in **2099 UNLIMITED** will be separate, but they won't contradict the continuity of the ongoing titles. Established characters will be given to different writers and artists who will be allowed their own take on the characters. Spider-Man will be featured prominently in the first two issues, with a creative team of Evan Skolnick, Chris Wozniak, and Chris Ivy.

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"We're trying for a different art style on Spider-Man," Cavalieri said. "Chris Wozniak is doing the first Spider-Man story. It's not going to be radically different from what Rick Leonardi does, but different enough; it's closer to the current X-Men style. I'm crazy about Rick's approach but there are always those who like to see something different. So the **UNLIMITED** allows me to do that."

The story will be a little more somber, though Miguel O'Hara will keep his humor and wit throughout. "You'll also get to see a different side of Miguel O'Hara's life," Cavalieri added. "One that you don't see in the current book, at least, not just yet.

"We also get to introduce a new costumed super villain who is interesting," Cavalieri added. "His name is Mutagen, and he'll be around for the first two issues of the **UNLIMITED**." Mutagen, a living defense mechanism, is able to create a perfect defense for any attack that may be made on him. When Mutagen goes on the offensive, and attacks a close friend of Miguel's, it is up to Spider-Man to find a way to combat Mutagen's counterattacking abilities.

Another established Marvel character from today will be shot into the future within the pages of **2099 UNLIMITED**—The Hulk.

The Hulk of **2099** will be based in California, where a natural disaster has turned the state into an island. "It's a place we haven't seen before in the series," Joey said. "The entertainment industry plays a big part in the origin of the character, yet [the approach is] very different from **WONDER MAN**, it's a lot stronger and tougher." And so, when you see the Hulk, "you will see this really ferral, ferocious, strange looking beast that is barely human now."

Writer Gerry Jones and artist Dwayne Turner will be creating the more ferocious Hulk in a special 30-page story in the **UNLIMITED**. "Gerry has a real keen wit. That's one of the things I look forward to in comics. He's a really bright guy and his work is best when he uses it to make little satirical points," Cavalieri said. "He takes off on a lot of things—the deal making in Hollywood, the 'Iron John' men's movement, current trends.

"We've already seen, in the 2099 series, a lot of these sort of splinter groups and cults, and this sort of takes off on that. We've already introduced one cult that worships Thor and thinks that Thor is coming back. There's a group in California who is quite like that, who's managed to get a hold of gamma radiation, which has been outlawed in the 2099 universe.

"Actually, it's not as broad or laugh out loud funny as the other stuff Gerry does; it's a very serious story with those elements that mirror current events and extrapolate them one hundred years. If Hollywood goes on, if the men's movement goes on, this is a look of what it will be like."

In 2099 gamma radiation and experimentation have been outlawed, due to the great danger to human beings. "Gamma radiation experiments have finally done so much damage [they have] been outlawed. Then we find out about this group in the Hollywood Hills who are fooling around with it and using it for very noble, very humanitarian reasons. But it's up to our hero, John Eisenhart, to stop them and if not stop them, at least get in on the deal somehow."

The first team book in the 2099 Universe will be the **X-MEN 2099**. That group's highly anticipated jump into the future will be handled by writer John Francis Moore, who also scripts **DOOM 2099**, and the artists will be Ron Lim and Adam Kubert."

"In the current Marvel Universe, there's been a tremendous amount of mutant proliferation, and that proliferation has come to an abrupt halt because of something called the 'Great Purge,'" Cavalieri explained. "The mutants that you'll be seeing in 2099 are the first of a new breed. They don't take off from any in the present era, not even those who come from the future, like Cable or Bishop—there's no connection."

The mutants of the future are a new class; a slave class, born to poor families who couldn't afford to have their child born without the mutant "message" in its **DNA**. Those who manifest the mutant traits are outcasts in their own society—much like in the present day Marvel Universe, but for future reasons.

Taking charge of a band of mutants, to bring attention to their plight as unwanted orphans in the corporate world of 2099, is a Vietnamese immigrant. Himself a mutant, he was born with one hand which has been grossly deformed, and can wither things at a touch.

"...everything came to an abrupt end because of the GREAT PURGE..."

A spiritual leader, he preaches "agressive non-violence." His crusade quickly comes to be viewed as a threat by high powered executives all over the world. When an assassination attempt leaves him crippled, he has no choice but to seek protection and form the new mutant strikeforce.

The 2099 X-Men will include four men and three women: Bloodhawk, who has organic wings and talons; Skullfire, who can manipulate ambient energy; Metalhead, whose strength comes from the absorption of materials such as iron or lead; Meanstreak, who can move at high speeds through his ability to "molt" his skin; Serpentina, a contortionist; Cerebra, who can scan minds and through physical contact, regulate human body functions; and Krystalin.

PROGRESSIVE FUTURES

SPIDER-MAN 2099, PUNISHER 2099, RAVAGE 2099 and **DOOM 2099**, continue taking their adventures deeper into the future and Joey revealed "we expect a major crossover by December 1993..."

For the first-born 2099 creation, **SPIDER-MAN 2099**, (by Peter David and Rick Leonardi) the editor hopes "to see more details spin-off in some of the adventures he's having Downtown." Joey is intent on keeping the book separate from the present day web-slinger. "Peter and I have this deal going between us that we don't really want to create villains that take off on modern day villains. We want to try and break new ground. The only exception has been Vulture 2099."

Following the conquest of Latveria, new adventures in **DOOM 2099** (by John Francis Moore and Pat Broderick) will take Doom all the way to the Cyberverse. "He's going to go off to China [to] see if he can make that part of his empire," Cavalieri said. "We get to see what China's like one hundred years from now, it's not necessarily like today."

For the Stan Lee/Paul Ryan **RAVAGE 2099**, there are plans for "a change of costume...an addition of a super power, and some problems resulting from them." The incredible amount of energy Ravage's hands now contain will make him more powerful, while also draining him because of its intense strength."

A three-part storyline upcoming in **PUNISHER 2099** entitled "Love and Bullets" will have the Punisher battling the Fearmaster and the Forces of the Cyber Nostra. Moreover, he'll continue to be investigated by Kerry, the psychiatrist who will discover the secret of the Punisher.

The crossover storyline will be worked out by all the 2099 writers and artists who will get together and, Joey joked, "we won't let them leave until we have a plot.

"It is important to me that there be a really genuine, really plausible reason for the four characters, who are quite disparate in approach, to get together against an equally plausible threat," Cavalieri said. "It is important to me that this is done right, that it is not gratuitous. They are four characters that are loners, and I don't know that there's anybody that Doom would want to work with, or that it's a good idea for the Punisher or Ravage to be working with a team. And I don't know if I want Spider-Man in a team just yet.

"But there will be a reason for them to be on the same side. Some even stronger menace, and that is definitely slated to happen before the end of '93," Cavalieri promised.

FUTURES AND PASTS

Things have been running smoothly for the Marvel Universe of 2099 thanks to the open-ended histories that have allowed for creative freedom for the writers and artists and have maintained a peaceful Bullpen. "There [have] been no office politics," Cavalieri said. "There are no arguments because [the 2099 Universe] is connected, but it's *not*.

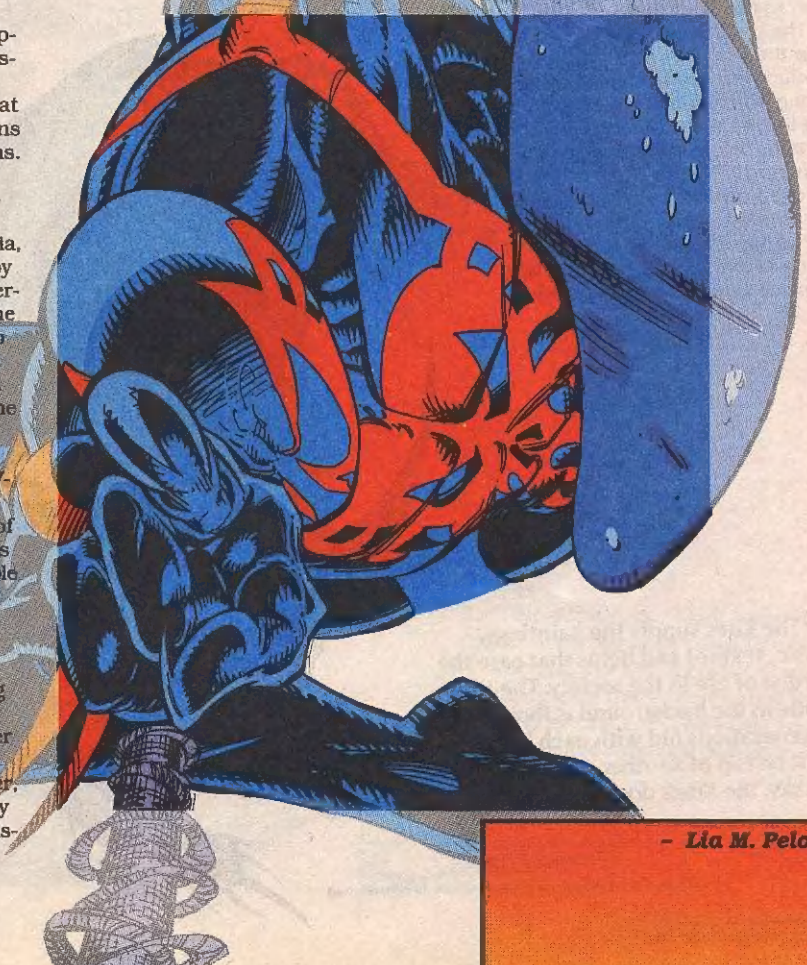
"You don't want to have Peter Parker's son because you don't want to wreck whatever it is Danny's doing. Besides," Cavalieri continued "Spider-Man in the original version appears in about five books a month. I think that's enough for anybody.

"I don't have characters who are immortal showing up, in case somebody does a storyline with, let's say, the Silver Surfer dying. If he shows up one hundred years later, we know that he's not dead," Cavalieri explained. "If Peter's having trouble with Mary Jane, it doesn't make any sense to have his kid show up because then we know that everything is okay with him, or at least they worked it out in some way.

"I try to stay away from that kind of continuity. But it's very much the Marvel Universe—just one hundred years later, that's all."

Are there any hopes for *further* expansion?

"If you can pretty much clone me, and we can get another guy," Cavalieri said, laughing. "That would be good. That way I could go out and hang for a while and the other guy could come and take this *interview* aggravation."



– *Lia M. Pelosi*

You ever WONDER what might happen if the MARVEL 2099 CREW came FACE TO FACE with their PRESENT DAY COUNTERPARTS?...
...ANGST? Pal, the kinda angst I got, they haven't even INVENTED yet!
Yeah? Maybe not, but I don't suppose YOU were indirectly RESPONSIBLE for your own uncle's DEATH either, were you?
Okay, I'll give you THAT one, but the guy I work for--well, he makes J. JONAH JAMESON look like your AUNT MAY!!
TRUCE, fella. After all, we have WAY too much in common to be BICKERING like this.
I guess you're right. Look where ARGUING got the TWO PUNISHERS...
OF course, THEY had GUNS...
At least DR. DOOM doesn't have THESE worries, since there's only ONE of him.
Oh, I don't know--
--I think the Doc has his own SPECIAL set of PROBLEMS...
I AM the ONE TRUE DOCTOR DOOM!!
AM NOT!
AM TOO!
AM NOT!
AM TOO!
AM NOT!
by Fred Hembeck
SPECIAL THANKS to Steve Saffel!!